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REPORT

OF THE

TREASURER,

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

Town of Amherst,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1879.

AMHERST:
CABINET PRESS,
1879.

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REPORT OF TOWN TREASURER.

Treasurer in account with town of Amherst:

Dr.—Cash received:

To Cash in hands of Treas'r March 1, 1878,	$607 77	
In hands of Collector for 1874,	376 30	
" " 1877,	1,427 43	
Taxes assessed,	8,900 14	
Interest on taxes, 1877,	4 21	
Interest on taxes, 1878,	7 19	
Insurance Tax,	7 50	
Railroad Tax,	388 35	
Savings Bank Tax,	1,593 26	
Literary Fund,	113 22	
Interest on Lawrence Fund,	105 00	
N. H. George, rent of Town Hall,	152 00	
Received from Town Farm,	130 07	
Rent of Bacon House,	25 00	
F. K. Boutelle, lots sold in Cemetery,	12 00	
Borrowed Money,	2,800 00	
License of Stanley's Menagerie,	1 00	
		$16,650 44

Cr.—By Cash paid out:

State Tax,	$1,784 00	
County Tax,	1,386 47	
Schools,	2,349 91	
School House Tax, Dis. No. 1,	150 00	
Town Officers,	691 50	
Fire Department,	131 25	
Miscellaneous,	4,720 74	
Snow Bills,	210 45	
Roads and Bridges,	812 66	
Principal and Interest,	254 87	
Aid to G. S. Hill,	125 25	
" Francis Tubbs,	4 00	
In hands of Collector, 1874,	376 30	
" " " 1878,	2,141 44	
" " Treasurer,	1,511 60	
		$16,650 44

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

George R. Hartshorn, labor on highway,	$11	96
E. R. Burtt, " " covered bridge,	7	50
S. H. Gilson, " " " "	4	00
I. F. Caldwell, " " " "	3	75
Edward P. Sawtelle, " " " "	5	00
A. S. Wilkins, plank for bridges,	18	90
" " " chestnut posts and labor on highway,	21	30
Eliza O'Donnell, deed of land to town of Amherst,	15	00
Isaac Parker, putting railing side of highway,	5	60
S. Wilkins, plank and labor on bridge,	37	91
" " labor on highway,	36	26
C. S. White,	53	76
H. W. Keyes, splitting stone for railing for highway,	6	00
Isaiah S. Berry, labor on highway,	2	41
Charles C. Clark, " "	5	62
Robert Converse, " "	14	57
" " " bridges,	10	30
Hiram G. Felton, labor on highway,	12	87
Henry M. Parker, " " "	7	92
Jas. M. Jackson, " " "	1	50
" " plank and labor on bridge,	11	62
Chas. S. Parker, labor on highway,	78	21
J. A. Powers, drain tile for highway,	12	00
Geo. Danforth, railing for highway,	5	31
Silas P. Parkhurst, labor on highway,	43	08
Chas. E. Grater, " "	3	50
Joseph Butterfield, " "	1	50
James R. Stearns, shingles and labor on bridge,	91	50
W. D. Forsaith, nails for bridge,	3	47
Chester Shipley, railing and labor on highway,	24	52
Rodney H. Prince, posts, poles " "	58	61
" " timber and labor on bridge,	15	13
James S. Parkhurst, labor on highway,	13	81

E. K. Burtt, labor on covered bridge,	6 75	
Isaac P. Weston, labor on highway,	8 75	
Isaac B. Dodge, posts, poles and labor in railing highway,	31 82	
" " nails, spikes and hoops in railing highway,	1 95	
Jos. A. Drucker, labor on highway,	3 75	
Francis K. Boutelle, " "	64	
B. B. Whiting, " "	13 19	
Philip S. Barrett, posts and labor on highway,	8 60	
J. F. Osgood, labor on highway,	2 06	
F. W. Holbrook, " "	5 37	
John H. Coggin, " "	10 20	
T. M. Harvell, " "	17 30	
Chas. A. Riddle, " "	1 58	
D. A. Peabody, " "	28 27	
Jas. M. Jackson, " "	1 50	
John C. Boutelle," "	5 00	
Frank W. Chase, " "	8 10	
Chas. F. Wright, " "	8 00	
E. P. Sargent, " "	5 44	
		$812 66

SNOW BILLS.

Robert Converse,	$3 93
James S. Parkhurst,	3 50
William Rhoades,	7 25
Hiram G. Felton,	3 25
Silas P. Parkhurst,	8 36
Charles A. Riddle,	2 56
Chester Shipley,	1 80
C. S. White,	11 89
George R. Hartshorn,	3 94
Charles S. Parker,	14 08
Isaac P. Weston,	2 62

F. Maxwell,	1 08	
Frank W. Noyes,	6 25	
Joseph H. Drucker,	1 37	
Rodney H. Prince,	4 74	
Aaron B. Woodward,	5 50	
Solomon Prince,	1 28	
Horace S. Boutelle,	8 02	
B. B. Whiting,	4 48	
S. Wilkins,	12 50	
F. W. Holbrook,	3 98	
John H. Coggin,	7 64	
T. M. Harvell,	5 44	
Henry M. Parker,	4 86	
Daniel A. Peabody,	5 89	
Charles A. Riddle,	11 02	
Charles F. Wright,	13 12	
Joseph Fowle,	2 67	
James M. Jackson,	3 87	
Enoch P. Sargent,	4 25	
Wm. Pratt,	9 37	
Frank Chase,	4 88	
John C. Boutelle,	15 06	
Charles H. Burnham,	10 00	
		$210.45

SCHOOLS.

E. R. Burtt, District No. 1,	$885 02	
C. Brennan, " 2,	170 58	
Jas. F. Weston, " 3,	198 38	
John Sampson, " 4,	178 03	
Joel H. Fisher, " 5,	174 38	
Isaiah S. Berry, " 6,	137 64	
J. U. Prince, " 7,	172 00	
A. S. Wilkins, " 8,	127 10	
Granville Parker, " 9,	139 96	
Pliny F. Odell, " 10,	115 15	

Geo. E. Patterson,	No. 11,	32 78	
R. H. Center.	" 12,	18 89	
			$2,349 91

SCHOOL HOUSE TAX.

Edwin R. Burtt, Dist. No. 1.	$150 00	
		$150 00

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

A. A. Rotch, Treas. of Lawrence Engine Co.,	$99 00	
Joel F. Osgood, Jr., Services of Firewards.	15 00	
J. B. Fay, Steward, care of Engine house,	17 25	
		$131 25

PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST.

Ellen F. McAlvin,	$31 20	
George H. Shaw,	69 42	
Frank Hartshorn,	22 50	
Mary F. Hardy,	12 00	
Abel T. Rideout,	16 25	
Mary R. Fletcher,	3 50	
A. Milton Wilkins,	30 00	
		$254 87

PAUPERS OFF THE FARM.

W. D. Forsaith, goods delivered to G. S. Hill,	$120 00	
Henry M. Parker, wood " "	5 25	
Alonzo P. Shepard, support of Francis Tubbs,	4 00	
		$129 25

TOWN OFFICERS.

Isaac B. Dodge, selectman,	$120 00	
Daniel W. Trow, "	100 00	
Mark Putnam, "	90 00	
R. T. Knight, treasurer,	50 00	
A. A. Rotch, town clerk,	58 00	
J. G. Davis, supt. school committee,	54 00	
J. E. Upton, " "	26 00	
Rebecca A. Spalding, "	12 00	
J. B. Bay, moderator for two town meetings,	9 00	
P. Dodge and H. E. Woodberry, auditors,	6 00	
Joel F. Osgood, jr., police,	8 50	
Timothy J. Stickney, "	6 00	
Francis K. Boutelle, supervisor,	5 00	
Isaac B. Dodge, overseer of the poor,	15 00	
Daniel W. Trow, " "	12 00	
Mark Putnam, " "	5 00	
George W. Osgood, collector,	115 00	
		$691 50

MISCELLANEOUS.

Jona. Knight, lumber and labor on bridge,	$10 74	
W. H. W. Hinds, return of births and deaths,	1 00	
Isaac B. Dodge, bounty on hawks,	6 40	
Daniel W. Trow, " "	1 60	
Geo. Danforth, loss and damage to cows,	50 00	
J. O. Pulsifer, time and expense in regard to Manchester & Ashburnham R. R.,	14 00	
J. Byron Fay, provisions for 3 men and 7 horses while laboring on watering trough,	2 40	
Chas Richardson, time and expense in relation to Manchester & Fitchburg R. R.,	18 00	
Daniel W. Drew, boards for staging for covered bridge	13 00	

Thos. B. Parker, bounty on foxes,	1 00
Isaac B. Dodge, " "	1 50
Michael Leavitt, jr., watching fire at Patrick Buckley's premises Ju'y 1878,	2 00
E. R. Burtt, labor on barn at town farm, labor on town trough, &c.,	5 12
Cornelius Brennan, watching fire at Patrick Buckley's July 1878,	2 50
John Trevett, running line between Amherst and Milford,	1 00
Albert E. Carlton, making stone watering trough and setting the same,	50 00
B. Frank Merrill, three cords of wood for town house,	13 50
Chas. L. Wilkins, painting and lettering two guide boards,	3 90
Chas. E Clement, deportment cards for schools,	3 50
Frank M. Balcom, hook and ladders for town farm,	8 47
Chas. S. McLane, damage done to carriage on highway,	3 50
E. K. Burtt, labor at town farm on barn,	3 93
L. Bissell, setting glass at town house,	1 00
" painting sign for town house,	75
Daniel R. Marshall, services in execution Henry M. Fairfield v. Amherst.	2,129 08
Receipt of John H. George, counsel, "	550 00
Wadleigh & Wallace, services, "	550 00
Perley Dodge, services and expenses, "	260 00
Chas. Richardson, " "	36 85
Isaac B. Dodge, labor shingling covered bridge,	5 25
" labor on town farm barn,	2 75
" iron for town farm barn and guide post,	1 50
Perley Dodge, counsel and making and recording deeds for town,	10 00

Edward Aiken, return of births and deaths,	75	
Clarence M. Dodge, " " "	1 25	
Albert A. Rotch, notifying jurors, expenses, postage,	5 90	
Boylston & Rotch, printing town reports, advertising &c.,	69 00	
Timothy J. Stickney, supplying meals for tramps.	12 00	
Joel F. Osgood, jr., supplying meals for tramps,	10 00	
R. T. Knight, taking care of town clock,	15 00	
F. K. Boutelle, mowing burying ground,	3 00	
" services of undertaker,	38 45	
Thos. B. Parker, bounty on boxes,	1 00	
Wm. N. Patterson, sawing lumber &c., year 75,	4 53	
R. T. Knight, expenses to Concord, Nashua and Manchester,	12 00	
R. T. Knight. copying, stationery &c.,	23 46	
Daniel W. Trow, labor shingling bridge,	1 50	
N. H. George, services and bills paid for town hall,	142 58	
J. B. Fay, work on town house,	7 50	
J. F. Osgood, jr., iron work for guide boards, railing, repairs on hearse,	6 15	
J. F. Osgood. repairs on fire engine hooks at engine house,	5 25	
J. F. Osgood, repairs on fire engine yankee,	6 25	
" " hook and ladders, engine house,	7 70	
" " constable badge,	2 25	
I. P. McKean, painting and repairing blinds on town house,	10 85	
John H. Coggin and others, watering places,	56 75	
Abatement of taxes, 1877,	49 12	
" " 1878,	223 63	
Non-resident highway receipts,	54 70	
Discount on taxes,	185 93	
		$4,720 74

TOWN DEBT.

Amount of notes against the town,		$7,177 00
In Treasurer's hands,	$1,511 60	
" Liquor Agt's "	230 95	
" Collector's "	2,517 44	
		$4,259 99
Total debt of Town,		$2,917 01

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT T. KNIGHT, Treasurer.

AMHERST, March 1, 1879.

The undersigned, Auditors for the Town of Amherst, certify that we have thoroughly examined the accounts of the Treasurer of said Town, and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

PERLEY DODGE,
HORACE E. WOODBERRY, } Auditors.

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

For the Year Ending March 1, 1879.

EXPENDITURES.

J. A. Ober, clothing for Josiah Jewett,	$4 47
E. C. Batchelder, rep goods to cover lounge,	1 00
Haywood & Green, broom for barn, table cutlery and clothes line,	1 85
F. F. Kimball, table linen and crash,	1 61
N. W. Burke & Son, one barrel crackers,	3 25
H. Conner, rep. fork,	30
C. H. Hanson, difference between horses,	75 00
Luther Coggin & H. T. Harvell, expenses to Lowell,	4 60
Brooks R. Came, turnips and difference between cows,	19 60
N. W. Burke & Son, one-half barrel crackers,	1 63
Worcester & Nashua Railroad Co., transportation of mowing machine for repairs,	2 96
Richardson Manf'g Co., repairing mowing machine,	13 88
D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	11 75
Cotton & Thomas, dried apple,	1 00
McQuesten & Co., meal,	5 50
Avery & Maynard, cabbage plants,	4 60
Morrill & Co., express on cabbage plants	1 00
J. Minot Harvell, shearing sheep,	2 00
D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	11 25
Geo. C. Hadley, rep. harness,	1 50
D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	15 75
A. C. Fisher, one mirror glass,	90
Frank S. Wilkins, carrying milk,	9 55
M. J. Harvell, berries,	4 00
Edwin F. Armstrong, two months labor,	40 00
Kidder & Whitney, potash,	3 50

O. Willoughby, apples,	30
D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	11 00
F. J. Bickford, one cow and calf,	45 00
D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	5 75
Geo. R. Hassell, labor in harvesting,	7 00
David McCarty, labor,	139 00
Green & Burnham, lamp chimneys,	20
" " brooms,	80
C. H. Baker & Co., fish &c.,	10 10
S. E. Jaquith, curtain paper,	20
E. P. Sawtelle, carpenter work,	4 16
John A. Boutelle, difference between cows,	19 00
J. A. Ober & Co., horse blankets.	2 00
T. M. Harvell, butter,	29 65
A. F. Sawyer, for lumber and making cider,	6 26
D. Whiting & Sons, butter,	6 50
Mark Willoughby, use of boar,	75
Daniel W. Trow, slide yoke,	75
Brooks R. Came, pasturing cows,	8 90
J. Knight, sawing and planing,	50
S. W. Moore, butchering,	1 00
Geo. H. Brigham, flour and groceries,	58 38
N. H. George, oysters,	2 78
Samuel Wilkins, rye to sow,	5 10
W. L. Burns, weighing hay,	15
Joel F. Osgood, Jr., blacksmith bill,	23 95
J. B. Fay, rep. tin ware,	1 30
S. D. Herrick, vinegar,	4 33
T. W. White, repairing harness,	95
Geo. W. Osgood, meat,	2 62
David McCarty, labor,	32 00
H. E. Woodberry, groceries and hardware,	66 68
Geo. Walker & Son, meat,	67 25
W. D. Forsaith, groceries and grass seed,	33 05
C. Cross, grinding corn,	31 90
H. T. Harvell, for turkeys,	3 00
" superintendant,	300 00
Expenditures,	$1,174 71

RECEIPTS.

Milk sold,	$735 58
Stave timber,	165 13
Hay sold,	80 48
Hogs and Pigs,	42 24
Beef cow and calves,	47 75
Lambs and wool,	41 16
For use of grove,	26 00
For cabbages,	14 25
For potatoes,	12 30
Keeping cows,	6 00
Beans sold,	13 75
For chairs,	25
For oats,	50
From county,	9 00
For turnips,	50
Letting horse,	1 00
Meadow grass,	13 00
Keeping sheep,	75
One pair bulls,	75 00
For apples,	1 70
Labor on highway,	2 00
Lard,	1 00
One bed,	4 50
Eggs,	1 92
Use of bull,	9 00
Total receipts,	$1,304 78
Expenditures,	$1,174 71
Excess of receipts over expenditures,	$130 07
Bills due for milk,	$56 40
Due from Jason Bills for hay,	5 00
" " E. G. Clark, bills for hay,	3 50
" " C. Cross, for stave timber,	7 50

ISAAC B. DODGE,
DANIEL W. TROW,
MARK PUTNAM,
} Overseers of The Poor.

AMHERST, March 1, 1879. We certify that we have examined the foregoing account and find it correctly cast and properly vouched.

PERLEY DODGE,
HORACE E. WOODBERRY,
} Auditors.

Inventory of Personal Property at Town Farm.

18½ tons English Hay, 16.00	$296 00
9 " Stock Hay, 8.00	72 00
Oat and Corn Fodder,	7 00
Meal,	4 00
225 bushels Corn, 40c.,	90 00
5 " Sweet Corn, 50c.,	2 50
2 " Beans, 1.65,	3 30
2 Horses,	300 00
14 Cows, 40.00,	560 00
11 Sheep,	44 00
1 Shoat,	12 00
16 Hens,	8 00
1 mowing machine,	60 00
1 Horse Rake & Hoe,	25 00
1 Roller,	15 00
4 Ploughs,	30 00
1 Road Plough,	12 00
2 Harrows,	8 00
1 Horse Fork & Ropes,	15 00
1 Cultivator,	3 00
1 Hay Cutter,	5 00
1 Corn Sheller,	5 00
5 Rakes,	1 50
5 Pitch Forks,	2 50
4 Shovels,	2 00
4 Manure Forks,	2 00
4 Hoes, 2.00, Potatoe Digger, 50c.,	2 50
1 Post Shovel,	90
1 Iron Bar,	1 25
3 Wood Saws,	2 75

5 Axes,	2 00
1 Post Axe,	50
1 Light Wagon,	50 00
1 Light Wagon,	6 00
1 Double Harness,	28 00
1 Single Harness,	15 00
1 Sleigh,	8 00
1 Buffalo Robe,	4 00
3 Horse Blankets,	2 00
1 Lumber Wagon,	60 00
1 Small Farm Wagon,	30 00
2 Ox Carts,	110 00
1 Spear Drag,	4 00
1 Traverse Runner Sled,	30 00
1 Ox Sled,	7 00
2 Ox Rakes,	2 00
1 Slide Yoke,	6 00
2 Horse Yokes,	1 00
4 Whiffletrees,	2 00
1 Evener,	1 00
1 Whip,	25
Wheelbarrow and Hand Sled,	6 00
1 Cant Hook,	50
4 Chains,	5 00
3 Scythes and Snaths,	2 25
1 Barn Broom,	25
1 Brand Iron, "Town of Amherst,"	50
Hook and Ladders,	8 47
4 Baskets,	1 25
1 Set Dry Measures,	75
1 Wooden Pump,	4 00
2 Cart Spears,	3 00
14 Flour Barrels,	1 75
Posts and Lumber,	12 00
2 Pair Steelyards, 4 Augurs,	3 00
1 Grindstone,	7 00
Sickles and Corn Cutters,	1 00

Chisel, Screw Driver, Nippers,	1 70
Wedges and Sawset,	1 00
1-2 Barrel Flour,	3 50
10 Lbs. Butter, 25c.,	2 50
34 Lbs. Lard, 9c.,	3 06
14 Lbs. Sugar, 9 1-2c.,	1 33
5 Gallons Molasses,	2 50
Coffee, 63c., Tea, 35c.,	98
Raisins, 30, Ex. Lemon &c., 35c.,	65
Salt and Spices,	4 00
10 Lbs. Dried Apple,	80
9 Doz. Eggs, 22c.,	1 98
25 Bushels Potatoes, 80c.,	20 00
9 Bushels small Potatoes,	2 25
35 Bushel Turnips,	7 00
Beets and Cabbages,	1 00
5 Barrels Apples,	2 00
1 Barrel Cider,	1 50
8 Gallons Boiled Cider,	6 00
8 Gallons Pickles,	1 33
16 Cans Fruit,	3 20
3 Bushels Oil Nuts,	75
150 Lbs. Salt Pork,	15 00
100 Lbs. Ham,	10 00
10 Lbs. Corned Beef,	80
Pie Meat,	50
35 Lbs. Fresh Pork,	2 10
Salt,	50
5 Stoves,	40 00
3 Tea Kettles,	2 00
5 Iron Pots,	2 50
3 Flat Irons,	1 00
Frying Pan and Kettle,	1 00
1 Apple Pearer,	50
3 Butcher Knives,	75
1 Six Pail Brass Kettle,	3 00
Tin and Cooking Ware,	20 00

Tea and Dining Sets,	13 00
9 Tumblers, 80 c., 2 salters, 50c.,	1 30
Spoon Holder and Castor,	75
Spoons, Knives and Forks,	1 50
1 Tea Pot Wire Stand,	25
3 Kerosene Lamps, 1.50, 1 Lantern, 1,00,	2 50
1 Two Gallon Oil Can,	50
1 One Gallon " "	25
10 Lbs. Candles,	1 50
Stone and Earthern Jars,	1 45
Stone Pitcher,	20
Wash Bowl and Pitcher,	1 00
2 Spit Cups,	25
4 Pitchers,	2 50
40 Fruit Cans,	4 00
1 Two Gallon Jug,	50
1 Lounge,	7 00
6 Cane Seat Chairs,	6 00
3 Rocking Chairs,	3 00
12 Chairs,	2 00
4 Tables,	10 00
4 Light Stands,	1 00
5 Cases Drawers,	5 00
Clothes Horse and Dry Sink,	2 00
3 Wash Tubs,	2 25
4 Wooden Pails,	40
2 Wash Boards and Wash Bench,	1 00
Floor Brush,	50
6 Bedsteads,	3 00
3 Bedsteads,	7 50
1 Teapoy,	1 50
Clothes Line and Pins,	50
1 Clothes Wringer,	4 50
1 Clothes Basket,	75
3 Brooms,	50
Matches,	20

2 Clocks,	5 00
5 Mirrors,	3 00
2 Coffee Boxes,	50
1 Tray, 1.00, Pork Barrel, 1.00, Ham Barrel 50,	2 50
2 Kegs, 1.50, 2 Sugar Buckets, 1 20,	2 70
1 Meal Chest, 2.00, 2 Cheese Safes, 3.00,	5 00
1 Carpet,	6 00
8 Woolen Blankets,	5 50
16 Cotton Sheets,	8 00
19 Pillow Cases,	3 00
19 Quilts and Comfortables,	13 00
1 Bolster,	1 00
19 Pillows,	4 50
8 Feather Beds,	40 00
7 Straw Ticks,	3 50
4 Table Covers,	2 00
5 Roller Towels,	1 25
2 Small Towels,	25
28 Window Screens,	50
25 Window Paper Curtains,	1 00
1-2 Barrel Soap,	2 00
Hard Soap,	20
Soap Grease,	50
6 Cords Stove Wood,	18 00
11 Cords Wood,	22 00
Sulphur and Rosin,	20
5 Bibles,	3 00
	$2,431 50

There are no paupers at the Town Farm. From March 1, 1878, to June 1, 1878, 114 tramps have been supplied with food and lodgings. From June 1, 1878, to March 1, 1879, 8 tramps applied for help. Total number of tramps provided for at the Town Farm 122.

Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC B. DODGE,
DANIEL W. TROW,
MARK PUTNAM,
} Overseers of The Poor.

AMHERST, March 1, 1879. We certify that we have examined the foregoing account and find it correctly cast and properly vouched.

PERLEY DODGE,
HORACE E. WOODBERRY,
} Auditors.

Report of the Superintending School Committee,

For the Year Ending March 1, 1879.

According to the enumeration of children in the town of Amherst made by the selectmen in April, 1878, the whole number between the ages of five and fifteen was 247 ; of whom, the number of girls was 117 and the number of boys 130. The whole number of different scholars four years old and upwards attending school in town not less than two weeks, enrolled in the Registers, is 248. Number of girls 131 ; number of boys 144. Eighty-four scholars, less than a third, attend school in the village, the larger number being divided among the nine district schools,—which gives an average of only twenty-one enrolled scholars to a district. The average attendance is of course much less.

The whole amount of money expended in maintaining the schools, including contributions, literary fund, dog tax, and cost of superintendence is $2,637,87, an average of $10.64 per scholar. The whole amount of teachers wages $2,102.90. Male teachers $48.00 per month ; female teachers $28.00. Every district has had two terms of instruction, and districts, numbered 1, 2, 3 and 7, have had three terms each. The average length of all the schools for the year is twenty-seven weeks.

The Prudential Committees have been at pains to obtain teachers, who were well qualified for their work, and the results have almost invariably approved their good judgment.

District No. 1, Organized under the Somersworth Act.

Prudential Committee, Mr. E. R. Burtt.

Primary Department. Three terms, taught by Miss Katherine G. Meade. Scholars from six to thirteen years of age; the number in attendance varied from 26 to 42; the highest number of scholars attending the first or spring term. Over one-third of the scholars were present and punctual each half day of the term. The average standing of the pupils was also high and the progress would have been very uniform had no interruptions occurred on account of sickness. A village school usually embraces some disorderly children, but Miss Meade maintained good order and each of the successive examinations furnished decided evidence of improvement, in the several classes. In Geography and the general exercises, the answers were given with promptness and accuracy. The management of a school like this requires energy, patience and skill, and Miss Meade was equal to the requirements.

The Upper Department or High school, continued under the care of Miss Helen M. Meade, who had taught with acknowledged ability the previous year. During the two terms, in which the scholars were under her instruction, there was no relaxation of the excellent order, neatness and punctuality, which were so admirable in the conduct of the school before. With the exception of a little friction growing out of a misunderstanding of the rules of the school, on the part of some parents—the results of her management were excellent; a healthful emulation prevailed, and scholars from other districts sought to avail themselves of the advantages here offered. At the end of the second term, Miss Meade preferred to withdraw from the situation, and Mr. Geo. N. Merrill was engaged to take the place. Mr. Merrill entered on his duties with enthusiasm, and as the qualities in which he excels are quite unlike those of his predecessor, the school received no detriment. If there was less of order there was no

sacrifice of application, or of thoroughness. The District is to be congratulated that the scholars have enjoyed the discipline and instruction of two teachers so well qualified for their work. Could one person be found having all the good qualities, that were exhibited in the instruction of these two, the combination would give us the perfect teacher. It is gratifying to observe that the interest in study and the desire of personal improvement, which were commended in the report of last year, are still operative and influential. Most of these youths were occupied with honorable endeavors to profit by their opportunities and as we mark the progress in knowledge and character we rejoice in the good work accomplished. At the close of the year the Lawrence Prizes were awarded for proficiency in study and punctuality in attendance ; 22 volumes being distributed to scholars in each department, at a total cost of $33.-91, said scholars having attended at least two full terms. Other scholars received honorable mention for good conduct and attainments in study, who had not been in school 20 weeks.

Improved arrangements for heating the school-room have been introduced, by which a desirable temperature is secured at the opening exercises in the morning. Two large slate blackboards have been added to the furniture of the upper rooms. The superiority of slate to any other material for this purpose and its durability, commend the article for adoption in other districts.

DISTRICT NO 2.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Cornelius Brennan.

Three terms ; the first taught by Miss Mary O'Connor ; the second, by Miss L. Down ; third, by Miss A. E. Caldwell.

The attendance of the scholars in this district is quite irregular, the parents do not realize the importance of having their children in the school every day ; and for insufficient reasons, scholars who were doing well are allowed to be absent ; this breaks in upon the order of the school room and hinders the

progress of the classes of which the absentees are members. The scholars, who have attended with the greatest regularity, have made satisfactory improvement. The teachers have been faithful and good order has prevailed. One fault apparently of long standing should be corrected—that of spelling the words without dividing them into syllables. If this district is to have special aid from the town, means should be employed to secure the regular attendance of all the children.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

Prudential Committee, Mr. James F. Weston.

This school is small, and consequently lacks something of the enthusiasm, which usually prevails among larger numbers. The scholars, however, have been dutiful and diligent under the tuition of Miss Emma H. Weston, who has taught during the three terms of the year with excellent results.

The parents in this district maintain a lively interest in the education of their children, and the influence is felt as a healthful and steady impulse by the scholars. It is creditable to both teacher and pupils, that one so recently a member of this school should fill the office of teacher without embarrassment and to the entire satisfaction of the neighborhood.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

Prudential Committee, Mr. John Sampson.

This school has continued under the care of Miss Marcella Smith, who taught last year. The scholars in this district have manifested a commendable diligence in their attendance; twelve out of sixteen were present punctually each half day during the summer term; as many of the pupils are young, the same regularity could not be expected, in the winter. Miss Smith secures the confidence of the children and the improve-

ment of the whole number indicates thorough and well directed work. There is a healthy sentiment pervading the families of this district; the teacher is sure of the sympathy and co-operation of the parents and the children improve by their advantages.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

Prudential Committee, Dea. Joel H. Fisher.

Both terms of this school were taught by Miss Ellen M. Nahor, who had charge of the school last winter. The wisdom of this arrangement was manifest in the continued good order and steady improvement of all the scholars. The parents of the children have visited the school and encouraged the teacher by the manifestation of their personal interest in the progress of the pupils. Of the whole number of scholars in attendance, it appears that ten out of thirteen have not been absent nor tardy during either term. The recitations were generally excellent; bad tones and defective enunciation are still too common, but these faults are recognized and the teacher has sought to correct them.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Prudential Committee, Mr. I. S. Berry.

Both terms of school in this district were taught by Miss Bessie I. Fuller, a teacher of experience and one who was interested in her work. Under her control, the scholars made good progress in the various branches pursued and improved in discipline.

The examinations showed that a hearty interest had been taken in study, and that the pupils had been careful to understand thoroughly what was taken up.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Prudential Committee, Mr. J. U. Prince.

The three terms were taught by Miss M. Jennie Harvell, who was quite successful during the first term. The second and third terms were not so satisfactory in their results, but seemed to lack thoroughness and discipline, two very essential elements of a good school. The attendance for the year was very good. There is no lack of intelligence in this school, but some bad habits have found their way into it, and at present, the school needs a thorough going teacher.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

Prudential Committee, Dea. A. S. Wilkins.

Of the eighteen scholars, whose names are entered on the Register of this District, only four have found a place on the *roll of honor* for regular attendance and punctuality. There may be palliations for this serious defect but they are not apparent to the Superintendent. The Teacher, Miss Viola R. Clark, brings intelligence and tact to the business of instruction, and the result of her fidelity was a decided improvement in all the classes. It would be a great advantage to this school if the parents of the scholars would give the teacher the encouragement of a visit occasionally and thus assure the children of their interest in what is done at the school house.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

Prudential Committee, Mr. G. Parker, Sr.

The examination of the first term, under Miss M. E. Twiss, showed a lack of thoroughness, but the discipline seemed to be very good. Miss A. J. McAlvin taught the second and third terms with most gratifying results. New methods were intro-

duced, and the school, though quite small, was made interesting and profitable. The improvement in reading was quite noticeable.

DISTRICT NO. 10.

Prudential Committee, Mr. P. F. Odell.

Miss Mary E. Noyes, the teacher of both terms in this district, had good success and evidently gave good satisfaction. The attendance was very regular and some of the classes made good progress. In this school an improvement could be made in reading and in promptness in recitation.

From the foregoing survey of the several schools, it is evident that the money expended by the town for public instruction has secured valuable results. There is a manifest improvement in the order and manners of the school room. Many of the scholars are animated by a commendable ambition to be regular in attendance and correct in their recitations, the teachers also have been faithful and happy in their work.

REGISTERS.

The keeping of the Registers requires more care than most are willing to bestow ; in some cases important questions have not been answered as the law requires. We also wish to call attention to the prevailing practice of *high marking.*

By examining the Registers, it appears that a large number of deserving scholars, receive 97—100, to indicate their standing ; 100 being the highest number attainable. According to the Registers those having this number are *perfect* scholars. This fact suggests the inquiry, whether this system of high marking is correct ; We ask what is perfection in deportment, in scholarship ? Take the exercises of a morning in the school room, and how often do you hear a faultless recitation ? The pupils answer, frequently

giving the precise words of the book or stating with exactness and fluency the solution of a problem. This may be done from memory and consequently without a thorough understanding of what is uttered. A *good* recitation, embraces accuracy, a distinct enunciation, promptness and intelligence ; a *perfect* recitation will add to these qualities fulness and felicity of expression. A perfect recitation must answer in every particular, to the choicest standard of scholarship. A similar standard of judgment should be employed in respect to deportment, which includes habits of study and all that enters into the occupations of the school room. The perfect scholar is one, whose conduct and exercises are always at the best ; one whose excellence admits no improvement.

It is not hypercritical therefore to suggest that the system of high marking, by which a large percentage stand at 97—99, and here and there a favorite at 100, is false and misleading. The scale should allow of grades of excellence answering to the actual attainments of the pupils, such as they know are true, and such as their subsequent intelligence will justify.

The average standing of the scholars has undoubtedly improved. This is owing to the prevalence of better views of the design of the common school education and better methods of government. A superior order of text books and frequent illustrations on the blackboard have also contributed to this result. There are fewer neglected scholars and less partiality than formerly. With this advancement in the general average of scholarship, there is a melioration of manners ; we witness less rudeness in speech and deportment ; books and benches are less abused, and the grounds about the school buildings are more cleanly and reputable. This upward movement would be strengthened, if something should be attempted in every district in the way of ornamentation, by setting shade trees, repairing and painting fences, and supplying the school rooms with a waste basket, good mats, a shelf for reference books, and a cabinet organ. Such outlays would more than repay the costs, in the gentler manners and good behavior of the children.

CHARACTER.

On the subject of training of character, the following extract

from the last annual report of Dr. E. Hunt, superintendent of public schools in Newton, Mass., is in matter and statement so just and admirable that it ought to be seriously considered, not only by teachers of the public schools but by parents and all who have to do with the instruction and guidance of youth:—

After all the teacher's anxiety and labor for the pupil's intellectual progress, there still lingers in the mind of the conscientious the thought that possibly his moral nature has not been sufficiently cared for, and the overshadowing fact that what he is to be depends upon the character he forms forces itself upon the teacher's mind with painful weight. To such we offer the following considerations:— Would you awaken in the pupil that trait of character termed by Dr. Arnold "moral thoughtfulness" "or the inquiring love of truth going along with the Divine love of goodness," exhibit that trait in all your dealings with him. Would you have him sincere, sympathizing, courteous and just to others, let him see that you are such in all your relations to him and to others. Would you have him high-minded, generous, noble in conduct to others, he will not fail to be such, inspired by the irresistable influence of your example. Would you strengthen his faith in the Infinite, by your works show him yours. You can not prevent the pupil from catching these traits of character as they are daily exhibited in the school room; for their influence is positive and cannot be resisted. This is due to the imitative nature of the pupil and his great susceptibility to impressions from visible objects, and you need not despair because you have little or no time to weary him with so-called moral stories, which may please or vex him according to his mood, and are of little worth when contrasted with your own example. Yet further: it is not to be forgotten that the best moral discipline is not separable from the mental, but psychologically a part of it. Correct habits of mental action are as essential to clear thinking in moral acts as in the purely abstract. The pupil must be taught to be true to his own memory, to reproduce his own thoughts in the precise language he has once formulated them,

that he may acquire the habit of repeating to others the precise words, if he attempt it, that he may have heard or read. To this end he must not only be faithful to his own thoughts and imaginings in giving them expression, but must cultivate the habit of giving an earnest, exhausting attention to whatever he may be called upon to reproduce, that he may learn to do exact justice to others as well as to himself. Teach him to form correct estimates of his own merits, and he will not be eager to under-estimate the merits of others. Teach him to state clearly and fearlessly his own motives, and he will be less likely to mistake or misrepresent the motives of others. So that the moral discipline to external and internal honesty inevitably accompanies every school exercise, and the moral training of the child should no longer be dissociated from his intellectual training, as though it could be, in any efficient degree, accomplished as a separate object of pursuit by simply repeating nursery tales, or glibly rehearsing graver moral precepts. These have their appropriate place and influence, but are no substitute for the overpowering influence of example, supplimented by earnest, devoted teaching by philosophic methods.

LIBRARY.

In this connection, it will not be amiss to speak of another source of culture and intelligence, which ought at once to be brought within the reach of all our citizens, and—especially of the youth and children,—a public Library. By the laws of the State the towns are not only authorized but encouraged to establish and maintain public Libraries, which shall be open for the use and benefit of all the inhabitants. Many towns in the State have taken advantage of the statute and some in this vicinity have large and valuable collections of books, which are accessible to all their citizens. The benefits attending this free dissemination of knowledge among all classes are not easily measured. A Library of well chosen books, has great attractions to all earnest youth. It furnishes most agreeable occupa-

tion for winter evenings and leisure days ; encourages research and thoroughness in study ; and enlarges the resources of school teachers, who wish to encourage their pupils in generous studies. In a word, the Library not only helps the student while at school, but it enables him to keep up and enlarge his knowledge afterwards, while it opens to him treasures of information and entertainment that will enrich his mind, and prove a source of power in his manhood and a delightful solace amidst the infirmaties of age. The want of a Library is distinctly felt by the more advanced scholars in our public schools, and why should a town that has always provided in a liberal manner for the support of schools, withhold the small appropriation which is needed to secure this crowning advantage of our system of Public Education.

RE-ORGANIZATION.

The considerations presented in the report of last year, in respect to a new organization of the schools under a Board of Education, have lost nothing of their force by the observations of another year. On the contrary, the Committee are of the opinion that an arrangement might easily be made by which the younger pupils should secure two full terms of instruction of eleven or twelve weeks duration in every district ; and the older scholars have an equal opportunity in the High School in the winter. Under the charge of a judicious Board of Education of which the members should hold office for three years, a part retiring annually, the best teachers might be retained in the service of the town,—a better succession of studies maintained,—and a more uniform progress secured. So important a change should not be introduced, without a careful survey of the whole township and a due consideration of the circumstances and wants of each district. In some instances the schools are so small that the older pupils are desirous of attending elsewhere, while by maintaining the schools in the cold and stormy season the younger children lose time in consequence of bad weather.

We commend the subject again to the good sense and thoughtful judgment of our citizens.

For the sake of uniformity, and to secure an improved text book, Harper's Geography has been introduced the past year and the book answers admirably all the wants of the pupils in this department of study.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. DAVIS,
J. E. UPTON, } Committee.

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